Docket No.: RICE-1003US

REMARKS

Preliminary to the Examination of the above-identified application, please enter this Preliminary Amendment.

The specification and abstract have been amended to correct minor editorial problems. Figure 3 has been amended to correct the spelling of the word, "successive." The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependent claims.

Favorable consideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

Date: 1/2/2005

evin J. Dunlear

Registration No 32,024

Respectfully submitted,

Customer No. 21302

KNOBLE YOSHIDA & DUNLEAVY LLC

Eight Penn Center, Suite 1350 1628 John F. Kennedy Blvd.

Philadelphia, PA 19103 Telephone: (215) 599-0600 Facsimile: (215) 599-0601

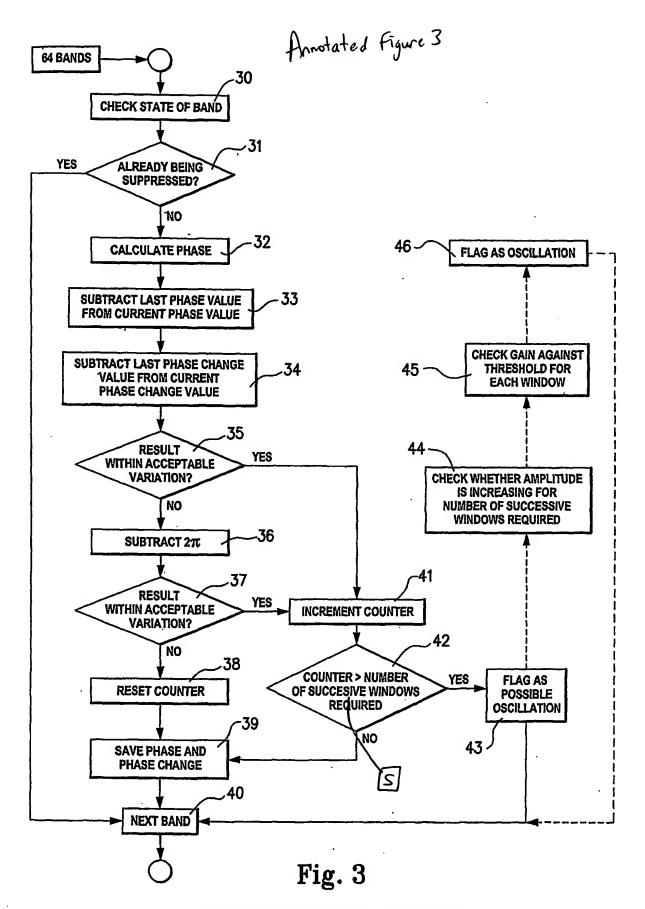
e-mail: kjdunleavy@patentwise.com

Attachments: Annotated version of Figure 3,

... Replacement sheet 2/4 of the drawings,

... Substitute specification, and

... Substitute abstract.



SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26) RO/AU